

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3347

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017

Repair of Old Railway Bridges

Kamal Nath Shri ;Kamaraaj Dr. K.;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of railway bridges, which are too old, requires urgent repair etc;
- (b) if so, the number of old railway bridges identified and repaired during the last two years and the amount spent on their repairing;
- (c) whether repair and rebuilding of distressed railway bridges are not conducted timely resulting in risk of train accidents; and
- (d) if so, the timeline fixed by the Railways to repair all the old railway bridges across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d): As on 01.04.2016, there are 1,40,919 railway bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. However, the age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge. There is a well established system of inspection of bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon.

In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Repair / strengthening / rehabilitation / rebuilding of railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections and not on the basis of age. If the corrective / remedial measures are expected to take a long duration due to the complexity of the site situation, etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restrictions and keeping such bridge under close watch are taken till the bridge is repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt. All bridges are safe for train movement at permitted speed.

During the last two years (2014-15 and 2015-16), 1377 railway bridges, at a total cost of ` 961.1 crore, have been repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt on Indian Railways which included bridges of varying ages.
